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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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FOR ADDITIONAL

INFO:

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Norfolk, Virginia – Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Melvin Maurice Wilson, age 22, of Newport News, Virginia, was sentenced to 270 months imprisonment today in U.S. District Court in Norfolk for possession with intent to distribute approximately 90 grams of cocaine base, and use of a firearm during and in relation to drug trafficking. Wilson was indicted in October 2002 on drug trafficking and weapon related offenses. He pled guilty on December 11, 2002.

On June 17, 2002, Wilson possessed with intent to distribute approximately 85 grams of "crack" cocaine which he stored in an associate's apartment. Wilson also kept various firearms, including a Colt .45 revolver, a .22 caliber rifle and two short barreled shotguns, at the apartment. As Newport News police detectives executed a search warrant on the premises, Wilson returned to the scene armed with a .9mm pistol. After a brief struggle he was arrested and the evidence seized. Wilson was released on bond. The case was referred to the ATF Task Force for federal prosecution. Wilson was then arrested in possession of 20 rocks of crack cocaine by federal authorities and has been in federal custody since that time.

Mr. McNulty said, "This case demonstrates that armed drug traffickers, like this defendant, who terrorize the community, will be aggressively prosecuted and justly punished."

The investigation was conducted by the Newport News Police Department, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and prosecuted for the United States by Special Assistant United States Attorney Shannon O. McEwen.